VALUE (CONTENTS) OF ARCHIVE

Two of the more obvious means of estimating the value of the archive are the value placed on it by the uses to which it is or can be put and the volume of the records. Neither offers a means of establishing the value to the penny.

Most of the official records in the archive were obtained by a series of Freedom of Information (FOIA) lawsuits all the records of which are included in the archive. Most of these were FBI records but among the other defendants were the National Archives and the Department of Justice. It is from two of these defendants that what left no doubt of the intent and focus of the official inventigation supposed to have been of the assassination were obtained.(A list of these lawsuits is included in my NEVER AGAIN, published in 1995, on pages 460-3.)

The estimated volume of the archive that was placed in storage until the space for it is available is about a third of a million pages of government records and about half of that of records I created. The government referred to those records as of its investigation of the assassinations of the President and Martin Luther King, Jr. But those records disclose that there was no real investigation of either crime and that none was intended. Or, there was and is no probability of finding any smoking gun in that great volume of official records that relate in any way to those assassinations.

The FBI's estimate of the disclosed pages relating to the assassination of the President is that it was of a quarter of a million pages but after the initial disclosures I obtained a considerable volume of records that has been withheld. One from the Dallas FBI office that I remember, for example, was of 3,000 pages. And in the years 2000 there were two disclosures to me each of a cardbox box of bound volumes of records.

The major disclosures of JFK assassination records were of the FBI headqurters records and those of the Dallas and New Orleans field offices. Dallas was "the office of origin" and New Orleans was practically a second such office. The subjects that after so many years I recall are not all of the subjects and making full recall more impossible is the fact that beginning at the end of 1992 it was too dangerous for me to use the stairs to our basement, the only place in our home that could hold so great a volume of records. (Others did use those records into 2000, however.)

The more important subjects of those records in simplified form or by title are the assassination, Oswald, Ruby, Liliason with the Warren Commission, The Fair Play for Cubs Committee, George de Ohrenschildt, Marina Oswald and the defected KGB official Yuri Nosenko.

Justice Department disclosures to me included the relevant records of the Criminal Division.

Other records included, but in much less volume, are of the CIA and of the House Committee on assassinations. (Also included was the published volumes of hearings and exhibits of this committee, as were those of the Warren Commission. This Commission set was in mint conditions, in unopened cartons. Some of what the House committee had and did not make public also is included.

Also included were many books, supposedly, on the subject, most of them with my annotations made as I read them and in preparation for the book-length manuscripts I prepared on them, all of which will be deposited in the archive. There was no space for them in the two moving vans that were used for this transfer, which was prompted by several burglaries. All, with the remaining books, will be added when I can no longer use them. So will the about 30 book-length manuscripts I have written as a record for history, with no conjectures in any of the printed and unprinted books, in all about 40.

Most of the official records supposedly on the King assassination and again disclosing that there never was and was never intended to be a real investigation of that crime, are from the FBI abd most of them are from headquarters and the Washington, Atlanta, Memphis, Birmingham, Los Angeles, Baltimore, St. Louis, New Orleans and Los Angeles field offices.

Among the other disclosed files are those on the strike of the Memphis Sanitation workers King went to Memphis to support and those on the loose organization of black youngsters who called themselves The Invaders.

I was James Earl Ray's investigator in an effort to get him the trial he died without having had. I did the investigation that resulted in a successful habeas corpus effort and I did the investigating for the two weeks of evidentiary hearing in which that resulted. All of that material, including the official stenographic transcripts, have been or will be included in the archive.

Also included is what can have sociological value, the vast outpouring of letters to me from strangers that we had occasion ti calculate in the early 1980s. It was then more than 20,000, all of whom were strangers. The volume was considerable after then but not nearly as great.

The Dallas JFK assassination records ultimately included but the FBI refused for months to let me have include its secret index of what it sent to headquarters for headquarters to disclose to the Warren Commission if it desired to. This index is of more than 40 linear feet of cards, xeroxed two to a sheet of paper. On paper this took up ten or twelve jammed file drawers each two feet deep.